Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 06552 180933Z ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 STR-07 OPIC-06 XMB-04 AID-05 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 /053 W

-----022872 190546Z/12

R 180709Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1781

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BRISBANE

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMCONSUL PERTH

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

UNCLAS CANBERRA 6552

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, ETRD, EINV, AS

SUBJ: JOINT STUDY PROGRAM WITH APCAC

REF: (A) STATE 166138, (B) MANILA 13943, (C) STATE 112598 (ALL NOTAL)

1. EMBASSY AND CONSTITUENT POSTS HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH AMCHAM OVER THE YEARS AND HAVE HAD AN INTIMATE DIALOGUE WITH THE REGIONAL AMCHAMS DURING THAT TIME. MOST RECENTLY, AND FOLLOWING THE DEPARTMENT'S SUMMARY OF THE APCAC SINGAPORE MEETING IN STATE 112598, THE AMBASSADOR AND THE COUNTRY TEAM MET WITH THE AMCHAM'S BUSINESS LIAISON COMMITTEE (BLC) IN CANBERRA AND SUBSEQUENT UNCLASSIFIED

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MEETINGS WITH THE AMCHAM EXECUTIVE WERE HELD IN SYDNEY WITH THE DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE IN JUNE AND WITH MEMBERS OF THE EMBASSY IN JULY. THUS, WE BELIEVE THE AMCHAM IN AUSTRALIA IS WELL INFORMED OF THE INTEREST OF THE USG TO IMPROVE COMMUNICATIONS AND COOPERATION WITH APCAC IN GENERAL AND ABOUT THE JOINT STUDY PROGRAM WITH APCAC IN PARTICULAR.

2. EMBASSY SENT LETTER TO KEVIN BANNON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF AMCHAM WITH APPROPRIATE SUMMARY OF STATE 166138 AND REQUESTED THAT HE CIRCULATE TO REGIONAL AMCHAM EXECUTIVES AND KEEP IN TOUCH WITH US ABOUT FUTURE MEETINGS, PROPOSALS AND INITIATIVES. LAST MEETING WITH SYDNEY AMCHAM EXECUTIVE WAS END OF JULY. AMCHAM'S RESPONSE WAS VERY POSITIVE. WE HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH BANNON BY PHONE SINCE THAT TIME AND AWAIT HIS SPECIFIC RESPONSE. WE SHAN'T WAIT TOO LONG BEFORE GOING BACK TO HIM. HOWEVER, WE NOTE THAT THE AMCHAM EXECUTIVE IS OPERATING FAIRLY CLOSE TO THE MARGIN AND THAT IT IS ALSO SPREAD FAIRLY THIN HERE. THUS, WE NOTE THAT IT MAY TAKE CONTINUED NUDGING TO MOVE AMCHAM ALONG LINES OF PARAGRAPH EIGHT STATE 166138 IF WE ARE TO GET THE SORT OF RESPONSE ENVISAGED AT ALL. FYI, BANNON FEATURED FOR AUSTRALIA IN RECENT USICA VTR ENTITLED "PERSPECTIVES" WHICH INCLUDED AN EXCELLENT OVERVIEW OF OUR ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL PERSPECTIVES AND INTERESTS IN EAST ASIA. WE ARRANGING FOR BANNON TO SEE THIS VTR AS A FURTHER PROD. ALSTON

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